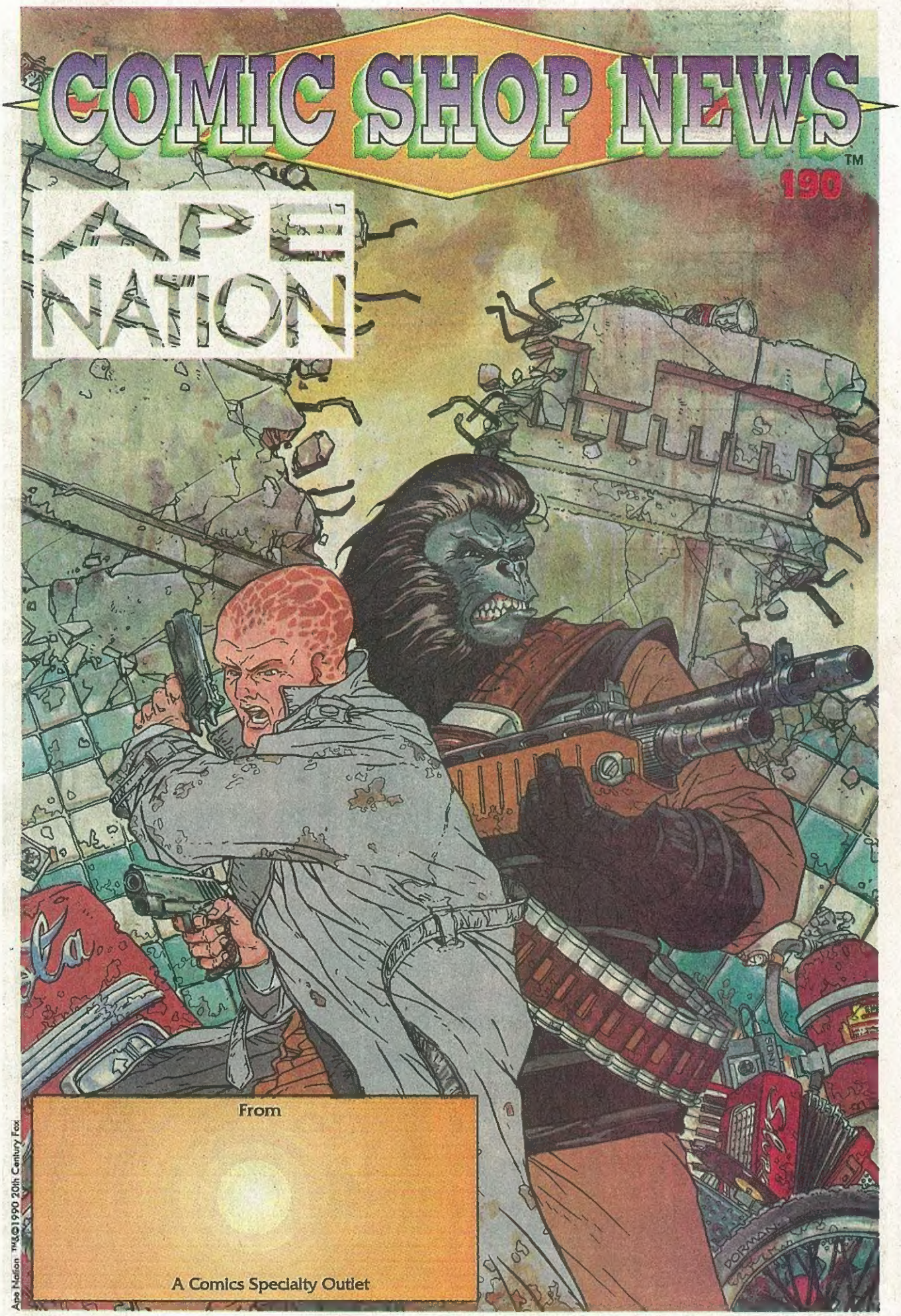

COMIC SHOP NEWS
190
APE NATION
From
A Comics Specialty Outlet
Ape Nation ™&©1990 20th Century Fox

Ape Nation Crossover Marks Adventure's First Foray Into Full Color

Adventure Comics has published a variety of successful black and white series--but when the company secured the rights to combine the worlds of the ***Planet of the Apes*** and ***Alien Nation*** for a special mini-series entitled ***Ape Nation***, they decided that the project called for something special: full color.

"Color is something we've always wanted to get into, but we wanted to wait for just the right projects," Adventure Publisher Dave Olbrich said. "***Ape Nation*** is our first Adventure color project but the quality of this material far surpasses the majority of that which is already available on the market."

Adventure has high hopes for ***Ape Nation***, since it's a crossover featuring their two best-selling and most popular series. "They've both based on 20th Century Fox movies, so the pairing of the two seemed quite natural," Olbrich explained.

Ape Nation is written by Charles Marshall, the regular writer for ***Planet of the Apes***. According to Marshall, Ape Nation is "a look at how two diverse characters--one an ape and one an alien--react to having to work together to achieve a singular goal." Marshall has worked to make the story an entertaining stand-alone read for those who haven't previously sampled either Adventure series--but there will be members of the regular series' casts appearing in ***Ape Nation***'s pages as well. "I wanted some familiar elements to keep the series tied to the current ***Planet of the Apes*** continuity," Marshall said. "A number of secondary Apes characters will be the stars of the series."

Ape Nation pits an invading army against Ape City. The army is an amalgam of ape, human, and Tenctonese forces led by General Ollo, Simon, and Tenctonese tyrant Danada. Heston, an ape sent to investigate reports of an alien landing, is the one who discovers the plan--but he may not live to warn his own people.

Ape Nation is illustrated by M.C. Wyman and Terry Pallot; Wyman is already very familiar with the apes, having illustrated ***Ape City***. "Together with inker Terry Pallot, they draw some of the best monkeys around," Adventure creative director Tom Mason said. Dave DeVries, colorist for Eternity's ***Puppet Master*** series, will be coloring ***Ape Nation*** as well.

Dave Dorman, popular cover illustrator, will supply the painting for ***Ape Nation #1***. "Dave was the first artist we thought of when we got the green light," Mason said. "His work on the cover led to a long-term agreement with Malibu Graphics to provide covers on a regular basis."

In addition to the regular ***Ape Nation*** edition, Adventure is also producing a special 8000 copy numbered limited edition. This special edition will contain a brand-new six-page prequel story detailing the events leading up to the miniseries; it will be done in the same format as the ***Planet of the Apes*** and ***Alien Nation*** limited editions, with foil embossing and other extra material. This special edition will feature a new cover by Peter Hsu.

Ape Nation, scheduled for February release, is priced at $2.50; the limited edition is priced at $5.95.

by KIM B. PEARSON

Your Quest Is Over

Those of you who have been searching in vain for ***The Judge Child Quest,*** announced for last summer release from Fleetway, can rest easy; the long-delayed 160-page full color graphic album will see print this spring! ***The Judge Child Quest,*** written by John Wagner and illustrated by Brian Bolland, Mike McMahon, and Ron Smith, tells of Judge Dredd's odyssey to find the child who can save Mega-City One--an odyssey that takes him from the mutant-filled Cursed Earth to the reaches of deep space. Brian Bolland supplies a new cover for the $12.95 trade paperback; look for it in April.

COMIC SHOP NEWS™

190

2 • 13 • 91

Marvel Set to Dazzle Fans With Rock'n'Roll Heroine

In early 1981, Marvel released the first issue of a comic book featuring a super-heroine with disco/rock roots, ***The Dazzler***. Almost ten years to the month after the release of that book, Marvel is ready to try it again--but this time, they've called on some big-league talent to help make their rock 'n' roll heroine a hit.

Nightcat, the heroine in question, will star in her own one-shot in early February. Nightcat, the musical performer, will release two singles in January, followed by an album in February (scheduled to coincide with the comic's release).

The *real* Nightcat is a singer named Jackie Tavar; she will appear on stage in the Nightcat costume based on a design by Jim Lee (ace ***X-Men*** artist). Following the release of the comic, Tavar/Nightcat will travel across the country on a promotional tour.

Nightcat is written by Marvel mastermind Stan Lee, with assistance by Jim Salicrup and Barry Dutter. The interior pencils are supplied by Denys Cowan, acclaimed artist of ***Green Arrow, Question,*** and ***Deathlok;*** his work has also been very visible recently on the cover of ***Moon Knight***. Joe Jusko is doing the cover painting for the prestige-format one-shot.

While ***The Dazzler*** never climbed the comics charts, Marvel has higher hopes for the hit-making potential of ***Nightcat.*** "Remember how popular the Kiss comics were a few years back," Skip Deitz of Marvel said, "and in more recent memory think along the lines of the ***Rock N' Roll*** and ***New Kids on the Block*** comics... ***Nightcat*** is a media event kit all in one comic!"

Nightcat #1, priced at $3.95, is scheduled for February 7th release.

by ALEX KIRKLAND

Dark Horse Celebrates Fifth Anniversary--and Readers Get the Gift!

Dark Horse Comics, one of the best-selling comic book publishers in the field, has been in business for five years now; it was 1986 when the company released the landmark first issue of ***Dark Horse Presents #1***, featuring the now-familiar Black Cross on the cover. Well, this is a great time for a celebration--and Dark Horse has invited a heaping helping of the creators who made it all possible, along with the readers who supported their books for the past half-decade.

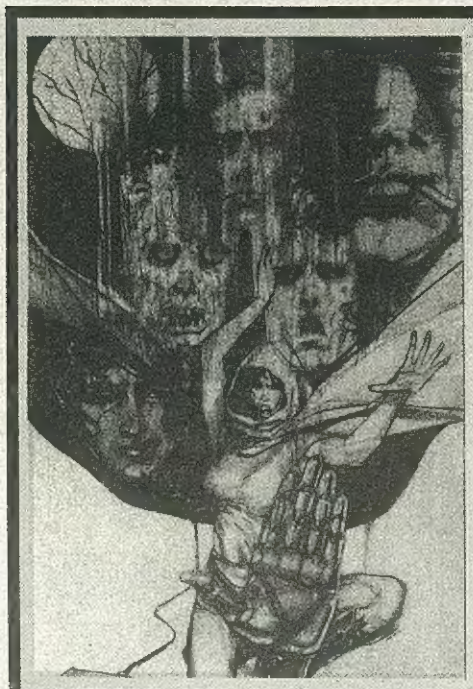
Dark Horse Presents Fifth Anniversary Special is a $9.95 perfect-bound gala book that has more big-name creators than you might ever expect to see inside the covers of a single book. Rather than offering a retrospective on ***Dark Horse Presents,*** the company is instead gathering over a hundred pages of all *new* tales for this volume.

Among the creators included are Frank Miller and Dave Gibbons, who supply a new ***Give Me Liberty*** story; Mark Verheiden, Dougie Braithwaite, and Robert Campanella, who contribute a new ***American*** tale; John Arcudi and Simon Bisley, who offer a new ***Aliens*** story; Chris Warner, who gives fans a new ***Black Cross*** story; Paul Chadwick, who has created a new ***Concrete*** tale for the volume; Matt Wagner, who presents a new ***Aerialist*** installment. As if this isn't enough, the 112-page book will also include an epilogue to the ***Aliens Vs. Predator*** series by Randy Stradley and Phill Norwood and an Jerry Prosser-Klaus Janson adaptation of a story by best-selling mystery novelist Andrew Vacchs, author of ***Strega*** and ***Hard Candy***.

Dark Horse Presents Fifth Anniversary Special will lead off with an all-star cover featuring many of the characters included in the issue, courtesy of Frank Miller and Lynn Varley. The must-have edition of one of the most successful black-and-white comics of all time will be priced at $9.95; look for it in late March or early April.

by CLIFF BIGGERS

NEWSBRIEFS



SCIENCE AND MAGIC SPELL SUCCESS IN NECROMANCER

Witchcraft and cyberpunk may sound like a pretty unlikely combination to most people--but not to **Terry Collins** and **Eddy Newell**, the creators of ***Necromancer: Season of the Witch.*** This new three-issue limited series from Innovation merges two very popular genres in a single storyline that stars Destiny Tate, a witch whose realm is the modern world of 2073 in the sprawling high-tech East City.

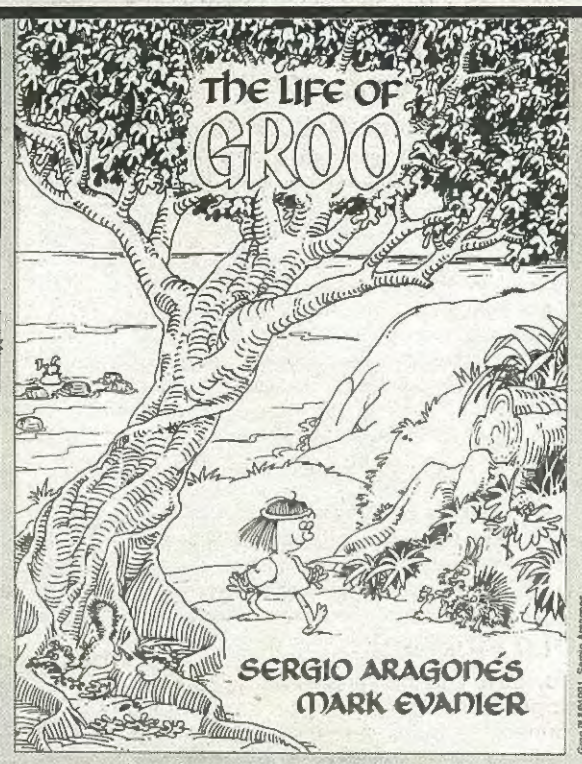
In ***Necromancer,*** Tate must get some vital information from an associate--unfortunately, this associate just happens to be dead. That's why Tate has been brought in to begin with. She joins forces with a Seer--a junkie who can see into the future under the influence of the right drug. Together, these two inhabitants of very different worlds hope to accomplish one very difficult mission. ***Necromancer, Season of the Witch #1,*** a black and white series from Innovation comics scheduled for late March release, is priced at $2.25 per issue.

PUNISHER READY TO BYRNE UP THE STANDS

Comics fans always seem to enjoy seeing **John Byrne**'s interpretation of popular characters--and they'll be especially pleased with ***Namor the Sub-Mariner #15,*** which guest-stars a hero quite outside of the Byrne stable of supporting characters. Frank Castle, best known as the crime-smashing Punisher, is on the trail of Desmond Marrs to shut down his drug-dealing operation. He and Namor aren't exactly working together on this one, though; instead, Namor and friends have headed to the Savage Land to investigate corporate exploitation of the area. Byrne's version of the Punisher will reach the comic shop racks on April 4th.

ALL THE GROO -SOME DETAILS

Remember last summer's announcement of the upcoming ***Life of Groo*** graphic novel? Remember how you never saw it at your local comic shop? Well, that's because it was never released--but it hasn't been forgotten! It's back on the Epic schedule for April 25th release. The contents are the same as were previously announced: 64 pages of **Sergio Aragones-Mark Evanier** zaniness focusing on Groo's childhood and the secrets of his parentage. This is a must-have companion volume to the ***Death of Groo*** graphic novel, the ***Groo*** comic series, and the upcoming ***Groo*** trade paperbacks; it's a tale that "groo" in the telling...



M.A.C.H. 1 BREAKS ALL BARRIERS

"Ah for the good old days when a British secret agent needed nothing more advanced than a pocket laser disguised as a cigarette lighter," Fleetway Comics laments nostalgically. "Now Her Majesty's operatives are surgically altered to do the job properly!" Thus begins ***M.A.C.H. 1,*** the new future-agent series starring John Probe, the futuristic predecessor of agents like James Bond. Probe's mind is enhanced with advanced computer circuitry; his body is rebuilt to state-of-the-art specifications, making him superior to all human beings. Think of it as "what if Deathlok were a government secret agent," and you've got the general idea. ***M.A.C.H. 1 #1,*** a 32-page $1.95 black and white comic, is slated for March release.

VIZ'S SECOND COLOR BOOK IS A PROFESSIONAL EFFORT

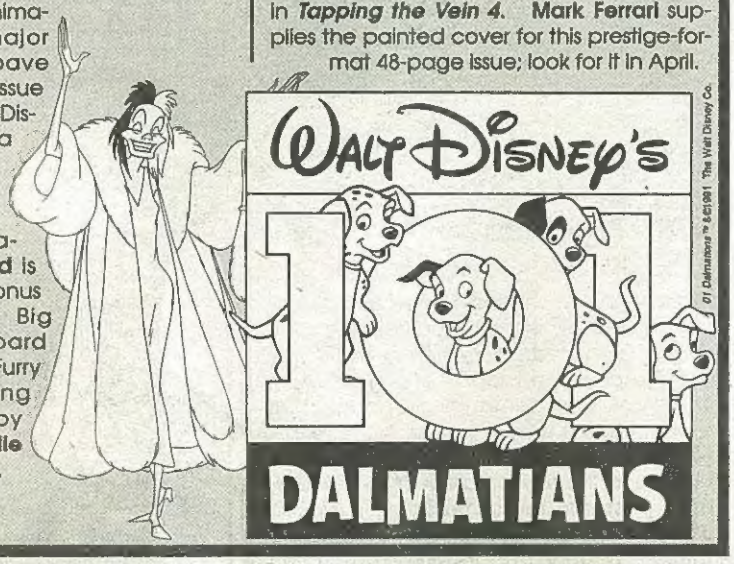
The Professional: Golgo 13 is the second full-color Viz series, following hot on the heels of the successful ***Gunhed*** series. "A number of half-hearted attempts at bringing ***Golgo 13*** to the States have been tried in the past, but this character is so strong and his personality so distinct, we felt it deserved a proper treatment and an adequate promotion," Viz editor **Seiji Horibuchi** said. Golgo 13, created for Leed Publishing by **Takao Saito,** is enormously popular in Japan, where there have been over seventy collected volumes of his stories as well as live-action films, animation movies, stop-motion videos, and computer games. Golgo 13, a killer-for-hire, is an archetype for the elite assassin characters that have been so popular in Japanese manga. The ***Professional: Golgo 13 #1,*** a 48-page squarebound full color comic, is scheduled for mid-April release; it will carry a $4.95 cover price.

A LIMITED NUMBER OF PREDATORS STALK THE COMICS SHOPS

Last month, ***CSN*** told you about the limited edition ***Aliens II*** hardcover from Dark Horse; this month, they're following t up with a limited edition ***Predator*** hardcover. Once again, **Mark Verheiden** will take pen in hand to sign 2500 copies of the book (you know, with three limited edition hardcovers, he's probably getting a bad case of writer's cramp by now), as will artist **Chris Warner.** The hardcover will feature a cover painting by **Denis Beauvais,** while **Chris Warner** will design the end-plates and the special color signature plate. Since there are only 2500 copies of this book, you can be sure it's going to be very rare--*so* rare, in fact, that it's likely that most shops will get (at most) a single copy. If you're interested in it, be sure to talk to the folks at your local shop as soon as possible.

YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SPOT THIS COMIC

101 Dalmations is scheduled to return to theaters on July 12th--and as you know, Disney makes its animation rereleases major events. To help pave the way for the reissue of this popular film, Disney is publishing a ***101 Dalmations*** prestige-format graphic album in May. This adaptation by **Al Hubbard** is followed by two bonus stories: "Lucky's Big Break" by Al Hubbard and "Santa's Very Furry Christmas" (starring Cruella De Vil) by **Floyd Norman, Willie Ito,** and **Mike Royer.** ***101 Dalmations*** is priced at $4.95.



MARVEL'S OTHER *UNIVERSE*

Marvel's ***Handbook of the Marvel Universe Master Edition*** is a big hit with fans everywhere--but ***CSN*** has heard from some people lamenting that the passing of the earlier ***Marvel Universe*** format that utilized the talents of a variety of fan-favorite artists. Well, take heart, because you can have your ***Marvel Universe*** just the way you like it! Those of you who want the latest, most up-to-date info can continue to pick up the ***Marvel Universe Master Edition*** packages, featuring comprehensive reference information in a looseleaf sheet format (along with reference art by **Keith Pollard**). But those of you who want a plethora of full-page illos by some of the top names in comics will be pleased to hear that Marvel's Director of Sales **Lou Bank** says that Marvel will keep the Handbook of the ***Marvel Universe*** Trade Paperbacks in print as well. Marvel will begin reprinting the out-of-print volumes starting in April; Bank says that they will keep the books in print "as long as fans seem to want them."

VON TOBEL SIGNS UP FOR WEIR TALES

Dragonflight Book Two, the second part of the adaptation of **Anne McCaffrey**'s Pern novel, is adapted by **Brynne Stephens** and pencilled by **Lela Dowling,** the same team who helped create the first issue; however, painter **Cynthia Martin,** who handled the art finishes on ***Dragonflight Book One,*** is being replaced by **Fred Von Tobel.** Von Tobel is experienced in the world of commercial and advertising art; he's also done some comics work, such as "The Madonna" in ***Tapping the Vein 4.*** **Mark Ferrari** supplies the painted cover for this prestige-format 48-page issue; look for it in April.

COMIC SHOP NEWS
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NEWSBRIEFS

IF YOU MISSED TAPPING THE VEIN, YOU ARTERY ENJOY THIS ANNOUNCEMENT

Eclipse's ***Tapping the Vein*** series, adapting stories from **Clive Barker**'s ***Books of Blood***, is already out of print--but Eclipse isn't going to leave its fans hanging. This March, the company will reprint ***Tapping the Vein*** #1 and #2 in a single ***Tapping the Vein Folio Edition*** volume. The book will reprint the four stories contained in the first two issues along with an all-new cover prepared especially for this edition. At the same time, Eclipse will reprint in prestige-format editions ***Tapping the Vein*** #3 and #4, making the entire run available for those who missed out the first time. ***Tapping the Vein Folio Edition*** is priced at $14.95 in paperback and $35 in hardcover; ***Tapping the Vein #3*** will carry a $6.95 pricetag, while ***Tapping the Vein #4*** is priced $1 higher.

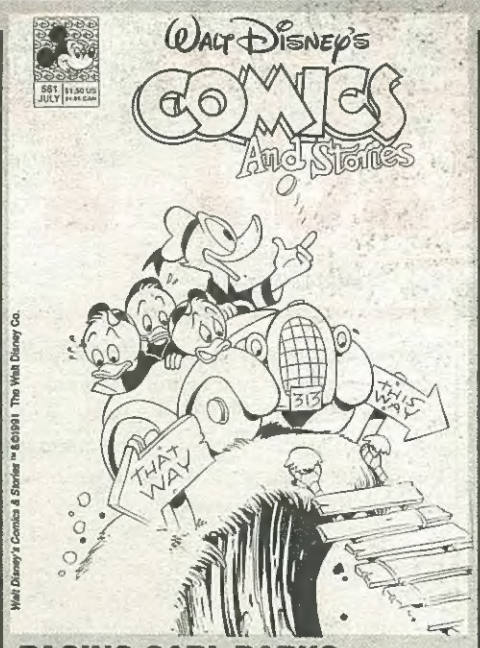
OLD FRIENDS

Daredevil and the Punisher,whose different approaches to the war on crime have formed the focus of several storylines, reunite again beginning in March in a two-parter in the pages of Daredevil. ***Daredevil*** #292 and 293 also feature a pair of villains, Taskmaster and Tombstone, whose are putting together an army of trained assassins. Of course, Daredevil and the Punisher don't see eye-to-eye on how to handle this problem: Daredevil wants to bring the criminals to justice, while the Punisher is perfectly content to blow them away. This two-parter marks the debut of **Dan Chichester** as ***Daredevil*** writer; **Lee Weeks** and **Al Williamson** handle the art honors. Look for it to begin on April 4th.

If you want to see a very different Daredevil-Punisher storyline, take a look at ***What If? #26***, on sale April 18th. This issue's feature is "What If the Punisher Had Killed Daredevil?", and it is based on the stories that appear in the Punisher-Daredevil bookshelf-format comic ***Child's Play*** (reprinted from classic **Frank Miller** issues of ***Daredevil***). Spider-Man, Kingpin, and Cloak and Dagger all guest-star in this storyline. ***What If #26*** is written by **Kurt Busiek** and illustrated by **Luke McDonnell**.

BATMAN RE-ENTERS THE DIGITAL DOMAIN

Batman: Digital Justice was an eye-catching piece of work produced by artist **Pepe Moreno** using extremely advanced Macintosh graphics and sophisticated software. The book was demanding enough that Moreno hasn't begun working on a sequel to this story of Batman of the future--but he has found the time to produce a new Batman poster in the same style as ***Digital Justice***. The 22" x 28" poster features the futuristic Batman and Joker in an illustration sure to amaze anyone who has ever tried to "doodle" on MacPaint or MacDraw. Look for the $5.95 poster on March 14th--and while you're at it, take a look at the hardcover graphic novel if you haven't latched onto a copy already...



PAGING CARL BARKS...

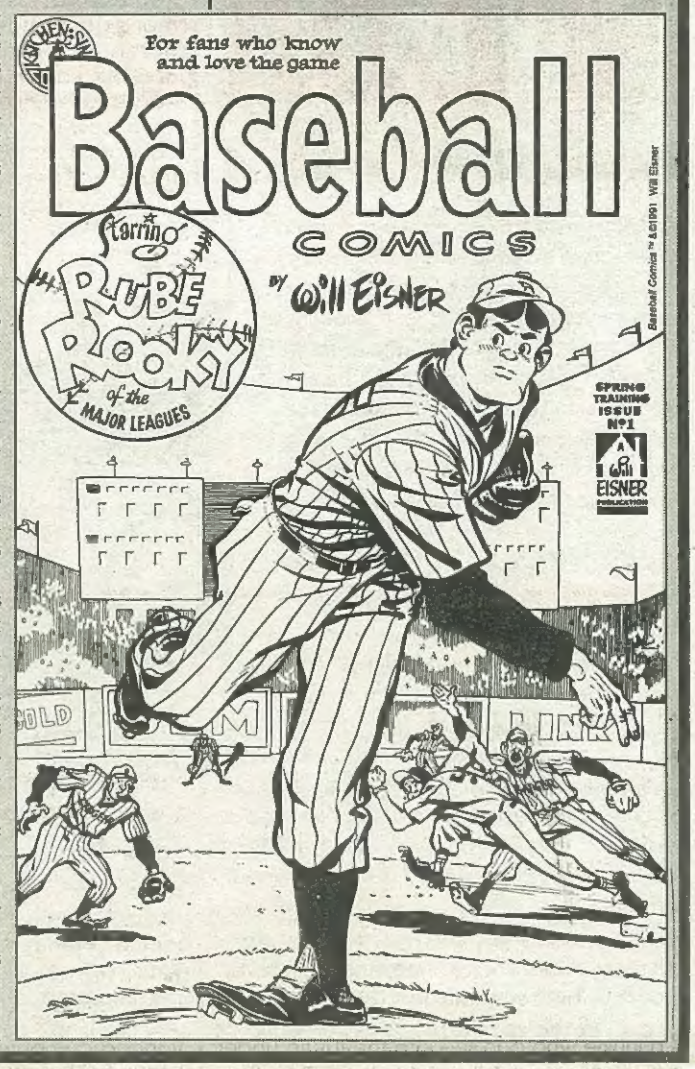
Carl Barks, the esteemed ***Uncle Scrooge*** and ***Donald Duck*** artist, is one of the most studied, reprinted, and celebrated illustrators in comics, so it's always big news when some almost-unknown Barks material comes into print again. But that's just what's happening beginning with ***Walt Disney Comics & Stories #561***. The lead story, "Flipism," is a better known Donald Duck story by Barks--but the real find is the *Special Carl Barks Page*, which will be a feature of ***WDC&S*** beginning with this issue. From 1928 to 1935, Barks wrote and drew gag cartoons for a small Canadian magazine called ***The Calgary Eye-Opener***. Some of these cartoons have been discovered in a private collection, and Disney will begin reprinting them in ***WDC&S*** starting in April. For Barks completists, this sort of a find is a major event. ***WDC&S 561*** will also contain material by **William Van Horn** and **Dick Moores**.

FANGS FOR THE MEMORIES...

Nick Fury has teamed up with a lot of characters in his lengthy history, but ***Marvel Fanfare #77*** is a first: never before have we seen Sgt Fury join forces with Dracula, Lord of the Vampires! The World War II adventure brings the Howling Commandos and the Lord of the Undead together to free concentration camp prisoners. The story by **Murray, Lyle,** and **Rubinstein** shares the issue with the 6th part of **Barry Windsor- Smith**'s 13-part Wolverine storyline and the finale of the **Jones/Gulacy/Martin** Shanna serial; there's also a stand-alone Mr. Fantastic adventure by **Fingeroth** and **Jensen**. ***Marvel Fanfare #77*** is slated for April 4th release.

MORE NICELY-DRAWN EISNER PITCHERS

Back in 1949, **Will Eisner** and crew were convinced that there were some unexplored directions that comics might want to venture into--and one of the areas that interested them was sports. That's why Eisner, **Jules Feiffer, Tex Blaisdell,** and **Jerry Grandenetti** created ***Baseball Comics***, the story of a rooky named (appropriately enough) Rube Rooky, who went all the way to the World's Series in his first 24-page adventure. Unfortunately, due to bad distribution, Rube Rooky's first season was also his *last* season, and Baseball Comics was soon forgotten--by everyone but **Denis Kitchen** at Kitchen Sink Press, it seems. Kitchen is determined to make as much of Eisner's work available to today's fans as he possibly can, so he's reprinting the entire ***Baseball Comics #1*** in a full-color comic this spring--just in time for baseball season. The comic will also contain reprintings of the four baseball cards found in the original edition--including a rookie card for Alvin Dark, named 1949 Rookie of the Year, and Rube Rooky, the star of the book. ***Baseball Comics #1***, priced at $3.95, is scheduled for March release.



40 YEARS AGO HE VANISHED...
NOW HE'S BACK TO RAISE HELL
Neither alive nor dead,an anti-hero for the 90's searches for chaos in an ordered world.
kideternity™
SUGGESTED FOR MATURE READERS
A THREE-PART PRESTIGE STORY OF SUPER-HERO HORROR
Written by Grant Morrison • Painted by Duncan Fegredo
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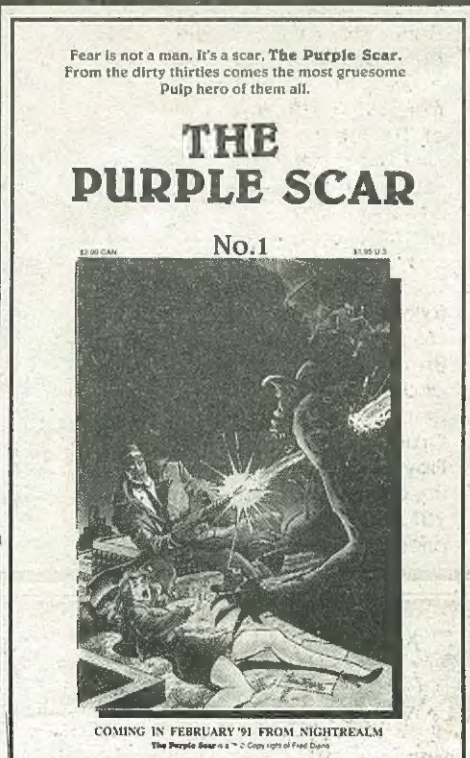

Fear is not a man. It's a scar. The Purple Scar.
From the dirty thirties comes the most gruesome Pulp hero of them all.
THE PURPLE SCAR
No.1
COMING IN FEBRUARY '91 FROM NIGHTREALM

CSN HOT PICKS!

FEBRUARY HOT PICKS!

by Cliff Biggers

A few years ago, February was traditionally regarded as the deadest month of the comic book year; the conventional wisdom has apparently changed, though, as the number of comics being published is still very high in spite of the short month. While hundreds of items are slated to reach the comic shop racks in the next few weeks, here are the two dozen that ***CSN*** *recommends you keep an eye on.*

Airwaves 1

Michael Lark virtually out-McKeevers McKeever in the first issue of this new series. The action takes place in Capital City, where the government controls the populace through manipulation of the airwaves. Music is a tool for political-corporate propaganda, and no one strays from the approved playlists...for long. When a radio dj and a rock performer both refuse to go along with the government's plans, they discover how the government deals with its enemies. A strong storyline and eye-catching artwork should make ***Airwaves*** as big a hit for Caliber as ***Baker Street*** or ***The Crow***. *(Caliber, $2.50)*

Amazing Spider-Man 346

Venom is back–and if you think his attitude was bad before, take a look at him now! Fans just can't seem to get enough of this popular Spidey villain, so this two-parter should disappear from the shelves very quickly indeed. (And if you think this book is going to be hot, imagine what the reaction to a ***Venom*** limited series is going to be...) *(Marvel, $1)*

Ape Nation 1

Planet of the Apes and ***Alien Nation*** have been very successful for Adventure Comics, so it should come as no surprise that a crossover of the two series might well be the hottest comic in Adventure's history. The publishers are pulling out all the stops here: they've gotten top talent to work on the book, and they've chosen it to be Adventure's first full-color publication. First printings of this comic are likely to be in short supply before the month is out...after all, we remember what happened when Dark Horse brought ***Aliens*** and ***Predator*** together in a single book, don't we? *(Adventure, $2.50)*

Detective 627

Detective 27 first introduced the Batman to the world in "The Case of the Chemical Syndicate." Now, six hundred issues later, DC celebrates that monumental introductory story with an eighty-page issue of ***Detective*** featuring four different tellings of "The Case of the Chemical Syndicate." The original story is re-presented, as is the retelling from ***Detective 387***; the final two versions are the creations of the current ***Batman*** and ***Detective*** creative teams. Not only does ***Detective 627*** give fans a piece of history, but it lets them see how four different creative teams might handle the same idea. Norm Breyfogle's eye-catching cover painting based on the original 'Tec cover ensures that no one will miss this landmark issue. *(DC, $2.95)*

ACROSS

5 OF, CONCERNING
9 BIRD THAT "COCKLE-DOODLES"
13 SIMILAR TO AN ORANGE
15 SLANG FOR BROTHER
16 EITHER ...
17 NOT BIG
18 NOT OUT
20 HATCHET
21 HAMMERHEADS & GREAT WHITES
22 PLANT PART
23 SHORE
24 COLOR OF TURTLES
25 OUR PLANET
27 DARK, BLACK

DOWN

1 —— GECKO
2 PERTAINING TO THE SEA
3 IN, ON OR NEAR
4 SHARP TIP
6 ONE OF THE TMNTS (ABBV.)
7 ONE OF RAPHAEL'S WEAPONS
8 WHAT DONATELLO DOES IN SPARE TIME
9 A TURTLE IS A ...
10 TURTLE, TORTOISE ...
11 SPLINTER IS ONE
12 HAWAIIAN MEAL MADE OF TARO ROOT
14 COLD NORTHERN STATE
15 WHAT THE TMNTS LIKE TO DO TO SHREDDER
19 NEW YORK CITY (ABBV.)
22 NOT SMOOTH
26 WHAT YOU SHOULDN'T EAT IF IT RESULTS IN THE DEATH OF DOLPHINS

TURTLES CROSSWORD

YOU CAN WRITE TO THE TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES C/O THIS NEWSPAPER.

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 1991 MIRAGE STUDIOS

2-3

ANSWERS – Across: 5) about; 9) rooster; 13) tangerine; 15) bro; 16) or; 17) little; 18) in; 20) ax; 21) sharks; 22) root; 23) coast; 24) green; 25) earth; 27) ebony. Down: 1) Mondo; 2) marine; 3) at; 4) point; 6) Leo; 7) sai; 8) sharpens; 9) reptile; 10) terrapin; 11) rat; 12) poi; 14) Alaska; 15) beat; 19) NYC; 22) rough; 26) tuna.

CSN HOT PICKS!

Dragonflight Book One

Anne McCaffrey's Dragonriders of Pern novels have an enormous following; some estimate that her novels are second only to the works of Tolkien in their fan appeal. Well, Eclipse has already brought Tolkien's ***Hobbit*** to comics, so it was only natural that they'd target these science fiction works for graphic adaptation as well. Lela Dowling is the artist for this prestige-format adaptation of the first novel in the Dragonriders of Pern series. ***Dragonflight*** will have a strong appeal to fans of ***Elfquest*** as well as science fiction and fantasy aficionados. *(Eclipse, $4.95)*

From Hell 1

"From Hell" is a series by Alan Moore and Eddie Campbell that originally began in ***Taboo,*** the horror anthology edited by Steve Bissette. Since Taboo's publication schedule has been a bit sporadic, Tundra is presenting ***From Hell*** in a stand-alone publication. ***From Hell*** deals with Jack the Ripper–but as you might expect with creators like Moore and Campbell, it's far from just a retelling of the Ripper murders. Moore fans seem to appreciate any opportunity to enjoy his comics work, so ***From Hell*** is sure to sizzle on the comics racks. *(Tundra, $4.95)*

Ghost Rider 12

Dr. Strange 28

Dr. Strange/ Ghost Rider Special 1

The Spirit of Vengeance and the Master of Mystic Arts are a natural combination; judging from the response to previous Ghost Rider crossovers, they'll also be a hot team. The storyline begins in ***Ghost Rider #12*** and continues into ***Dr. Strange #28;*** the ***Dr. Strange/Ghost Rider Special*** is a differently-titled version of the final issue, aimed at those markets that don't normally receive ***Dr. Strange***. Of course, that also makes it a collectible variant edition...but we didn't need to tell you that, did we?... *(Marvel, $1.50 @)*

--GOD!! HE'S GOT... LIKE... SPIKES COMING OUT OF HIM!
SHCLUK!
RIGHT OUT OF HIS HANDS?!
WHAT SHALL I DO?!
STAY CALM, STATUS...
DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO LOGAN'S BOOTH?
Weapon X™ &©1991 Marvel Comics

Marvel Comics Presents

Hardboiled 3

One of the most talked-about series of 1990 comes to a climax in 1991–and what a climax it is! Frank Miller's story has fans speculating about just what's going on, but the real star of ***Hardboiled*** is Geoff Darrow, whose artwork is so meticulous that every perusal reveals something new. Virtually every fan who picked up the first issue will be sticking around for the finale–and word of mouth should bring in a plethora of new readers as well. *(Dark Horse, $5.50)*

Holo Bros 1

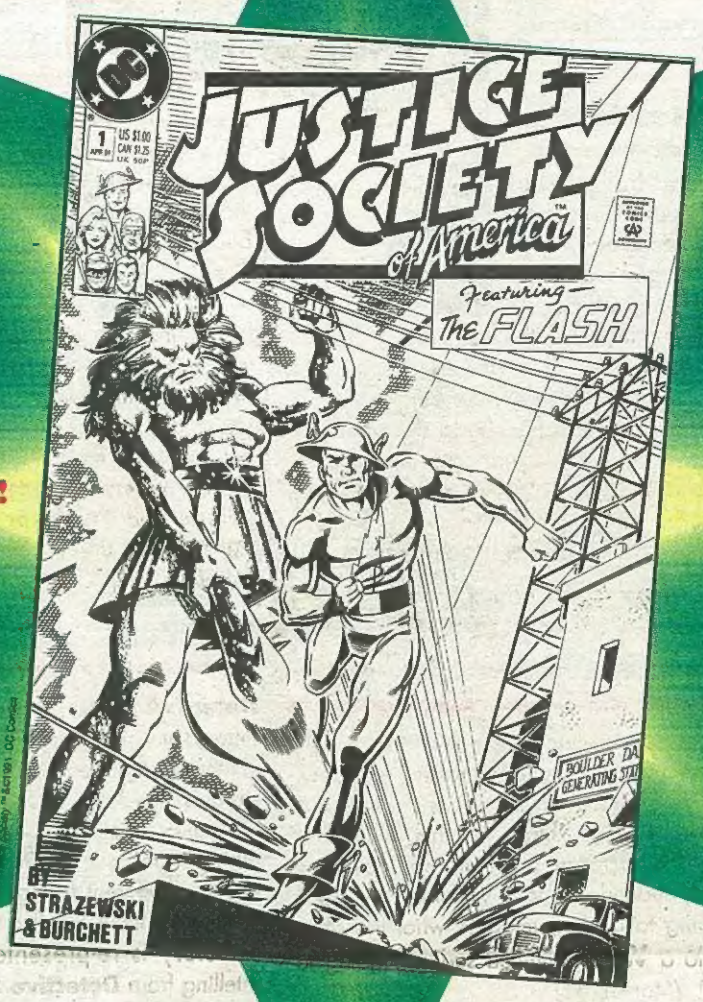
The Holo Bros have been popular with hip comics fans since their first appearance from Fantagraphics a few years ago. Jim Rohn gives the series a strong visual appeal and a clever, sassy attitude; he also tells a very strong story. In this ten-parter, the Holo Bros. are trying to keep their new boss, Prince Kevin of the City of Six Hundred Floors, enthroned–but that's not easy in a city filled with schemers and plotters. *(Monster, $1.95)*

Justice Society of America 1

O Frabjous day! After far too long an absence, the Justice Society is back in action in an eight-issue limited series constructed along the lines of classic Justice Society stories of years past. The Justice Society's adversary Vandal Savage is on hand with a plan to throw civilization back a millennium or two, and it's up to the Justice Society to stop him. DC has enlisted the help of some top artists to illustrate this series–but the real drawing card is the popular Justice Society itself. *(DC, $1)*

Father? Is it vanity to hope the Lord may choose for me a task most difficult?
No, that would seem a worthy Christian attribute, so long as it were not for Glory's sake.
From Hell ™ &©1991 Alan Moore and Eddie Campbell

From Hell 1



Cover of the Month!

Justice Society 1

Kid Eternity 1

DC has always been successful at making its prestige-format series an Event, and ***Kid Eternity*** will be no exception. Grant Morrison, fan-favorite writer of ***Arkham Asylum***, his signed on to pen the adventures of the hero who has the spirits of the deceased on call. While the original Kid Eternity Golden Age stories were light-hearted adventures, though, Morrison has given this new series a malevolent, mystical edge as he pits Kid Eternity against the Lords of Order. The series is painted by Duncan Fegredo, this year's hit British newcomer (although he's already familiar to fans In the Know who have seen his work on ***Third World War***)–and his work is quite stunning indeed. *(DC, $4.95)*

Moon Knight 25

Ghost Rider is quite a busy Spirit of Vengeance this month; not only is he teaming up with Dr. Strange, but he's also lending Moon Knight a helping hand in a battle with the Knight of the Moon, who are claiming that they are the rightful spirits of Konshu. As if the Ghost Rider crossover isn't enough, ***Moon Knight #25*** also has an extra added attraction: popular artist Mark Bagley, soon to be The Amazing Spider-Man's illustrator, handles the art honors for this double-sized anniversary issue. *(Marvel, $2.50)*

Marvel Comics Presents 73

Marvel Comics Presents 74

Barry Windsor-Smith's Weapon X, revealing hitherto unknown facts about the origin of Wolverine, continues in these two issues. No other explanation for their presence on the Hot Picks list is needed, I'm sure... *(Marvel, $1.25 @)*

New Mutants 100

It's the end of an era as the ***New Mutants*** series comes to an end. Don't mourn too long, though–the events of this issue lead into this summer's ***X-Force #1***, the reincarnation of the New Mutants heroes under a new name. If you want to know what's going on when this new mutant title debuts, you'll have to have ***New Mutants #100.*** *(Marvel, $1)*

CSN HOT PICKS!

Pentacle: Sign of the Five 1

Warlock Five was a very popular title for Aircel; now it's back ,moodier and more mysterious than ever, courtesy of Cunningham & Ross, who have given the series a far harder edge than it originally had. This is a classic good-vs.-evil storyline in which five people have the power to save the world–or destroy it. It should have strong appeal for fans of the original series as well as fans of horror series like ***Hellraiser.*** *(Eternity, $2.50)*

Pentacle ™ &©1991 Malibu Graphics

Predator II 2

The second half of Dark Horse's adaptation of the second ***Predator*** film has an added bonus: fan-favorite artist Mark Bright, who is the penciller for the last issue of the two-issue miniseries. Dark Horse has made Predator a comics smash twice before, so you can be sure that their third Predator project will have a very short shelf-life. *(Dark Horse, $2.50)*

Primal 1

Clive Barker adaptations have been smash hits for several publishers–but ***Primal*** marks the first time that Barker has co-created (and co-written) an all new series intended just for comics! The Riven, the primal horrors of earth's past, have been all but forgotten–but a single Riven has returned to remind mankind of just what they should be frightened of... Clive Barker, Dan Chichester, and Eric Saltzgaber are the writers for the new series, illustrated by John Van Fleet (whose work has been seen in earlier Barker adaptations). *(Apocalypse, $5.95)*

Predator II ™ &©1991 Twentieth Century Fox

Predator II

Punisher War Journal 29

Wouldja believe another Ghost Rider

BATMAN™

by Loebs, Infantino & Nyberg

The Deadly Riddle
BUT BRUCE...WHY CAN'T I HELP YOU AS ROBIN, AT LEAST UNTIL YOU'VE RECOVERED?
COME ON, KID! I'M A POOR, SICK OLD MAN! TOO MANY QUESTIONS FOR ME!
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
A GUSTY FALL DAY IN GOTHAM CITY...
GOTHAM BANK
YOU WANT ME TO READ THIS? "HOW IS A BANK LIKE AN OVERWEIGHT COLESLAW FIEND?"
THEY BOTH HAVE TOO MUCH CABBAGE! FORK IT OVER, SISTER!
REMEMBER... THEY CALL ME THE RIDDLER!
BUT, THAT WAS A TERRIBLE RIDDLE! MORE LIKE A WEAK PUN, OR...
GEEZ, LADY! WHAT ARE YOU, A LIT MAJOR...?
YAAAAAAAAAA
RARK GRRR
OOACH! STOP! HELP!
GREAT! FIRST A DOG, NOW THE WIND!
LATER...
SIGH... RIDDLE ME THIS...
HOW IS EDDIE NIGMA LIKE AN ALUMINUM LEG?
NEITHER ONE CAN GET A DECENT BREAK.
DON'T KNOW WHY WE HAD TO STAGE THIS MEET WAY OUT HERE, PHELPS.
BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY.
YOU KNOW HOW VALUABLE THIS STUFF IS, BRIGGS...
YEAH, I KNOW.
BUT WHAT ARE THE ODDS THAT SOMEBODY'S GOING TO NOTICE US EXCHANGING A SUITCASE?
PHELPS, YOU ALWAYS WERE A WORRIER! TRUST ME...
NO MATTER HOW VALUABLE THIS STUFF IS...
NOBODY'S GOING TO SNATCH IT!

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES™

NO WAY I'M GETTING ON THERE WITH THAT DUDE!!!
MAYBE WE ALL JUST ATE SOME BAD PIZZA...?!
YOUR CALL, LEO.
ALL RIGHT... SINCE NONE OF US CAN SEE THE HORIZON...
...LET'S TRUST SMILEY HERE...
1991
...AND SEE WHERE WE WIND UP.
NOW WHAT...?
HEY--THIS AIN'T FUNNY ANYMORE...!
KRRAKADOOM!
YOW!
Y'KNOW-- I BETCHA IF ANY OF US HAD HAIR IT'D BE STANDING ON END RIGHT ABOUT NOW...!
LOOK-- LAND!
SO IT LOOKS LIKE OUR BUDDY HERE DOES KNOW WHERE HE'S TAKING US...
CLARRAIN LAWSON BERGER KELLEHER
YEAH, WELL AS LONG AS IT AIN'T A DEAD END!
HOW TO DRAW TURTLES
PLEASE SEND YOUR FAN ART C/O THIS NEWSPAPER
FIRST, BEGIN BY INDICATING THE POSE USING VERY BASIC SHAPES.
SLOWLY BEGIN TO DEFINE THE SHAPES.
TO FINISH, SIMPLY ADD ALL THE DETAILS.

CSN HOT PICKS!

crossover? Howsabout a Ghost Rider crossover illustrated by Mark Texeira, the artist who helped make the early issues of ***Ghost Rider*** so very popular? That's what you get in this ***Punisher War Journal***, as Ghost Rider and the Punisher wage war against Straker and his Strakeforce. This is a must-have for fans of hard-hitting comics–because they don't hit much harder than these two guys!... *(Marvel, $1.75)*

Robin 4

Robin may well be the comics phenomenon of the season; the first issue of the series has been through three printings already and is still selling like gangbusters, and demand doesn't seem to be falling off for the later issues of the limited series. The action escalates in this issue as Robin confronts King Snake. The training is over, and the hero is ready for action–as are the fans! *(DC, $1)*

Toxic Avenger 1

Spider-Man 9

Todd McFarlane continues his five-part Spider-Man-Wolverine crossover as two of Marvel's most popular heroes (illustrated by Marvel's most popular artist) hunt down the Wendigo. Fans have all too few chances to see McFarlane's rendition of Wolverine–but judging from the phenomenal prices of such Wolverine issues as ***Incredible Hulk 340,*** they must like what they see! *(Marvel, $1.75)*

Toxic Avenger 1

The offbeat superhero star of two Troma Films was such a natural for comics treatment that it should come as no surprise to anyone that he's getting his own series. The real surprise may be that ***Toxic Avenger*** isn't published by a smaller, more experimental publisher, but is instead a product of Marvel Comics. Doug Moench, Rodney Ramos, and Val Mayerik are giving this series the same attitude as the original cult-favorite films. *(Marvel, $1.50)*

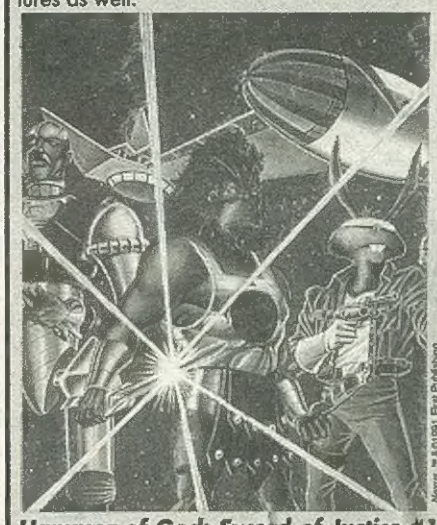
Kid Eternity 1

X-Men 275

Well, Todd McFarlane may be Marvel's most popular artist, but Jim Lee is closing the gap fast as more and more fans discover that the Claremont-Lee issues of ***X-Men*** are the best the book has been in years. Professor X is back, and this double-sized issue reveals just what he's been doing while he was gone. Magneto reaches a turning point in his role as a defender of mutants. The X-Men battle the Deathbirds. And for the first time in Marvel history, fans can enjoy a wraparound gatefold cover–in effect, a three-covers-wide illustration by Jim Lee! *(Marvel, $1.50)*

Overlooked Gem of the Month

Nexus is no longer published as a regular ongoing comic series, which is a real pity; it was one of the most tightly plotted superhero-sf comics ever published, rivaling Dave Sim's ***Cerebus*** in complexity. Thankfully, Nexus the character hasn't come to an end, though; First promises future ***Nexus*** limited series and graphic novels. Furthermore, one of Nexus' most popular supporting cast members, Judah Maccabee, is continuing his own solo adventures as well.



Hammer of God: Sword of Justice #1 by Roger Salick, Mike Baron, and Steve Epting is a fast-paced, entertaining follow-up to last year's successful ***Hammer of God*** limited series. Those of you who are going through Nexus withdrawal should latch onto ***Sword of Justice***–as should anyone who enjoys science fiction and offbeat adventure. *(First, $4.95)*

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If only Constantine's twin had survived. If only Constantine hadn't.
JOHN CONSTANTINE
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KID ETERNITY written by Grant Morrison and painted by Duncan Fegredo.
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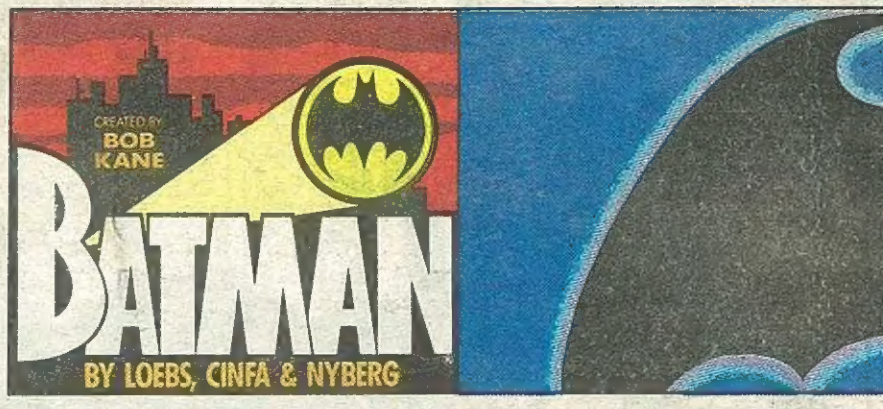
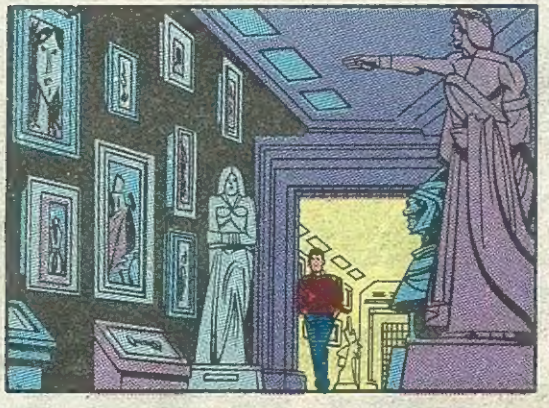

CREATED BY
BOB KANE
BATMAN
BY LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG

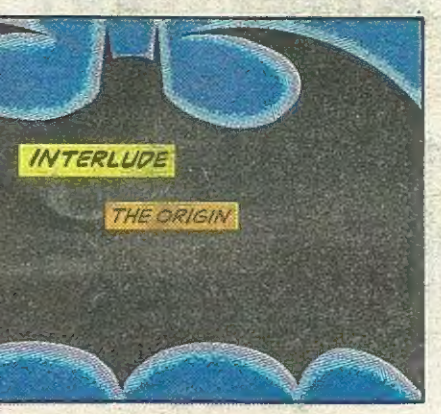


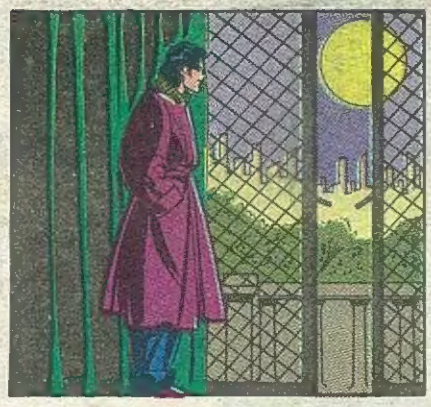
GEE, ALFRED. ALL BRUCE DOES IS PACE AND STARE OUT THE WINDOW.
I KNOW. THE DOCTORS SAY TO REST, BUT HE YEARNS FOR THE NIGHT, THE COWL AND THE BATTLE AGAINST EVIL!

"THAT NIGHT I SPIED A CURIOUS SCENE..."
BY THE SPIRITS OF MY PARENTS I SWEAR TO AVENGE THEIR DEATHS BY WARRING ON ALL CRIMINALS!

"ODDLY, AS A YOUNG MAN HE NEVER FORGOT THAT OATH. HE TRAINED HIS MIND...

"AND HIS BODY! REALIZING THAT HE WOULD NEED A TERRIFYING DISGUISE...





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